



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

## Veterans News

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### NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### **VETERANS CREMAINS LAID TO REST IN CEREMONY HONORING THEIR COMMITMENT TO OUR GREAT NATION**

The California Department of Veterans Affairs, the Patriot Guard Riders, members of veterans service organizations, and members of the public, today participated in a patriotic and solemn ceremony where the cremated remains of unclaimed veterans and spouses were interred at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery (NCVC). This is the first such ceremony to take place at the NCVC and sadly it may not be the last since there may still be many veterans who have not gotten the burial honors they are entitled to receive.

"Although we do not know the reasons why many veterans were not buried with the honors they were entitled to receive, we feel it is important to remedy this situation whenever it is possible," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "We will continue to cooperate with the Patriot Guard Riders and their Missing in America Project and inter the remains of veterans as we become aware of them."

The Patriot Guard Riders, through their Missing in America Project, are leading the effort to find the remains of veterans who have sat on shelves waiting to be identified and claimed. "These forgotten veterans served their country, no matter how and when, they survived, made it back home, and are resting on shelves and vaults," said Patriot Guard Riders National MIAP Operations Coordinator Fred Salanti. "It's the right thing to do, to find these veterans and give them the honor and respect due them."

The Northern California Veterans Cemetery is intended to be a dignified final resting place for California's veterans of the armed services, their spouse and eligible dependents. It has been designed to provide a place of meditation and quiet contemplation for veterans, their families and friends.

<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/memorial/cemetery1.asp>

The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of motorcycle riders from across the nation with an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. Their main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Besides demonstrating sincere respect for the fallen heroes and their families and communities, they also shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors by legal non-violent means. <http://miap.us/index.html>, <http://www.patriotguard.org/>

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*Note to editors: This News for Veterans and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via e-mail from [jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).*